IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows by replacing the claims with this listing:

1. (Currently Amended) A jewelry article comprising an annular ring~~body~~ made of a hard material comprising a predominantly tungsten carbide material and a binder component, wherein the annular ring~~body~~ has at least one external surface that is in~~ground to~~ a predetermined shape, has an inner surface, and has a polished ~~to a~~ grey mirror finish with the hard material being long wearing and virtually indestructible during normal use of the jewelry article, wherein a continuous portion of each of the inner and external surfaces is concentric around the circumference of the ring.

2. (Currently Amended) A jewelry article comprising an annular body made of a hard material comprising a predominantly tungsten carbide material, wherein the annular body has at least one external surface that is ground to a predetermined shape and polished to a grey mirror finish with the hard material being long wearing and virtually indestructible during normal use of the jewelry article~~The jewelry article of claim 1~~ which is in the form of a finger ring, wherein the annular body has an axis of symmetry and inner and outer circumferences and includes:

a first frusto-conically shaped surface extending around the outer circumference of said body, and forming a first outer surface of said body proximate a first axial extremity thereof;

a second frusto-conically shaped surface extending around the outer circumference of said body, and forming a second outer surface of said proximate a second axial extremity thereof opposite said first axial extremity, and

a cylindrically shaped exterior portion forming a third surface extending around the outer circumference of said body and being disposed between said first and second surfaces.

3. (Previously Presented) The jewelry article of claim 2, wherein said first and second surfaces having face angles within the range of from 1 to 40 degrees relative to the axis of symmetry of the body and are ground and polished to a mirror finish.

4. (Previously Presented) The jewelry article of claim 2, wherein the third surface is ground and polished to a mirror finish.

5. (Previously Presented) The jewelry article of claim 2, which further comprises a fourth frusto-conically shaped surface extending around the inner circumference of the body, and forming a first inner surface of said body proximate the first axial extremity, and a fifth frusto-conically shaped surface extending around the inner circumference of the body, and forming a second inner surface of said body proximate the second axial extremity.

6. (Previously Presented) The jewelry article of claim 5, wherein the fourth and fifth surfaces having face angles within the range of from 1 to 40 degrees relative to the axis of symmetry of the body and are ground and polished to a mirror finish.

7. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 1, wherein the hard material comprises a sintered tungsten carbide containing at least 85 weight% tungsten carbide.

8. (Previously Presented) The jewelry article of claim 1, wherein the at least one external surface is highly polished to a mirror-type luster that is maintained for life of the article and does not require re-polishing during use.

9. (Currently Amended) The[[A]] jewelry article of claim 1, ~~comprising an annular body made of a hard material comprising tungsten carbide, wherein the annular body has at least one external surface that is ground to a predetermined shape and polished to a mirror finish with the hard material being long wearing and virtually indestructible during normal use of the jewelry article,~~ wherein at least one additional external surface is present on the annular ring~~body~~ and comprises at least one or more different finishes to provide unique reflection characteristics to the article.

10. (Currently Amended) The jewelry article of claim 1, wherein the ring~~body~~ includes a cavity of a predetermined size and shape that is configured to receive an insert of a decoration component that provides a substantially different visual effect to the article.

11. (Currently Amended) The jewelry article of claim 10, wherein the cavity is a slot, groove, notch, or hole in a preselected location in the annular ring~~body~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The jewelry article of claim 10, wherein the cavity is a continuous groove or slot which extends entirely around the annular ring~~body~~.

13. (Currently Amended) A jewelry article comprising an annular body made of a hard material comprising a predominantly tungsten carbide material, wherein the annular body has at least one external surface that is ground to a predetermined shape and polished to a grey mirror finish with the hard material being long wearing and virtually indestructible during normal use of the jewelry article, wherein the body includes a cavity of a predetermined size and shape that is a continuous slot which extends entirely around the annular body and is configured to receive an insert of a decoration component that provides a substantially different visual effect to the article, and ~~The jewelry article of claim 12~~, wherein the decoration component comprises a precious metal that is disposed in the slot, which extends entirely through the hard material, and the decoration component is mechanically fit with the hard material to hold the components of the jewelry article together.

14. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 10, further comprising an insert of a visually different hard material, a precious metal or a gemstone.

15. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 14, wherein the insert is pre-shaped to have a mating configuration with that of the cavity, and is retained in the cavity by a mechanical fit or with a glue.

16. (Currently Amended) The jewelry article of claim 1, ~~in the form of a ring, earring, or bracelet wherein the annular body has a generally circular configuration~~wherein the annular ring comprises a ring, earring, or bracelet that includes an aperture configured and adapted to receive a body part and further comprises at least one frusto-conically shaped surface extending around the outer circumference of the ring for forming a first outer surface of the ring proximate a first axial extremity thereof.

17. (Currently Amended) The jewelry article of claim 1, wherein the annular ring~~body~~ includes design details that are maintained in their original configuration indefinitely.

18. (Currently Amended) The jewelry article of claim 1, wherein the hard material consists essentially of sintered tungsten carbide and the annular ring defines an aperture configured and dimensioned to receive a body part.

19. (Currently Amended) A jewelry article comprising an annular ring~~body~~ made of a hard material that consists ~~essentially of at least~~ sintered tungsten carbide and a metal binding material, wherein the annular ring~~body~~ has at least one external surface that is in~~ground to~~ a predetermined shape and polished to a mirror finish with the hard material being long wearing and virtually indestructible during normal use of the jewelry article and the annular ring defines an aperture configured and dimensioned to receive a body part.

20. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 19, wherein the binding material includes nickel or cobalt, or a combination thereof.

21. (Original) The jewelry article of claim 1, wherein the hard material has a density of at least 13.3 g/cm^3.

22. (Previously Presented) The jewelry article of claim 1, wherein the surface is curved.

23. (Currently Amended) A jewelry article comprising a[[n]] unitary annular ring~~body~~ made of a hard material comprising at least 85 weight% sintered tungsten carbide and a binding material, wherein the annular ring~~body~~ has at least one external surface that is ground to a predetermined shape and polished to a mirror finish with the hard material being long wearing and virtually indestructible during normal use of the jewelry article.

24. (Currently Amended) The jewelry article of claim 23, wherein the binding material is ~~further comprising a binder~~ present in an amount of 3 weight% to 13 weight%.

25. (Currently Amended) A jewelry article comprising a[[n]] unitary annular ring~~body~~ made of a hard material having a density of at least 13.3 g/cm^3 and comprising tungsten carbide, wherein the annular ring~~body~~ has at least one external surface that is ground to a predetermined shape and polished to a mirror finish with the hard material being long wearing and virtually indestructible during normal use of the jewelry article.

26. (Currently Amended) A jewelry article comprising a[[n]] unitary annular ring~~body~~ having at least one external surface and being made of at least 85 weight% tungsten carbide.

27. (Currently Amended) The jewelry article of claim 26, wherein the annular ring~~body~~ includes a binder component in an amount of 3 weight% to 13 weight%.